

# HI-Q

## THE LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB JOURNAL

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LARC- Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Ave., Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, P7B 4A3

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VE3FW - LARC call sign - honours the memory of the Founding President, P. J. "Pat" O'Shea

### LARC SENATE

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Keith Fiske   | VE3JQ  |
| Ray Forslund  | VE3EDZ |
| Ray Greer     | VE3CH  |
| Dave Kimpton  | VE3AVS |
| Bill Klemacki | VE3AJ  |
| Bill Roberts  | VE3ARN |

### LARC EXECUTIVE

|            |                  |                    |
|------------|------------------|--------------------|
| President: | Bob Hansen       | VE3RVA<br>767-6924 |
| Vice-Pres: | Mark Vaillant    | VA3MVR<br>935-2205 |
| Secretary: | Judy Artist      | VA3EAP<br>345-2218 |
| Treasurer: | Jan Sokoloski    | VA3JRS<br>344-3222 |
| Directors: | Ed Baumann       | VE3SNW<br>622-1216 |
|            | Andy Malcolm     | VE3INI<br>345-1858 |
|            | Maureen Meredith | VA3MOB<br>344-7868 |
|            | Pat Pugh         | VA3PP<br>345-8562  |

### LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS

|                    |                |         |        |    |
|--------------------|----------------|---------|--------|----|
| VE3YQT             | MOUNT BALDY    | 147.06  | (-600) | FP |
| VE3TBR             | ST. JOSEPH'S   | 146.820 | (-600) | FP |
| VE3BGA             | HILLCREST H.S. | 147.390 | (+600) |    |
| VE3TBB             | UPSALA ONT.    | 145.470 | (-600) | FP |
| (linked to VE3YQT) |                |         |        |    |

### PREZ SEZ.....

I hope that each and every member and their families had a wonderful Christmas and best wishes for a Happy New Year.

This January 2002 the club executive will have tickets on sale for the LARC 2002 Annual Dinner to be held at the Slovak Legion on Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. Cost of the ticket is \$24. The executive will be out collecting door prizes. We would appreciate any member wishing to contribute a door prize.

In the next few months I will have some interesting guest speakers arranged for club meetings. We are still behind in our memberships. Any previous members should renew their 2001-2002 memberships.

**(If you hear some of them on VE3YQT, remind them it's time to renew!.....Ed.)** Your club is only as strong as its membership.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next LARC Meeting, January 10, 2002.

Your President  
Bob VE3RVA

Here are some web sites of interest sent in over the past months. (call sign indicates contributor). Check them out.

[www.howstuffworks.com/](http://www.howstuffworks.com/) **VE3KRH**??? Good educ site sponsored by Circuit City covers everything

[www.bandhopper.com](http://www.bandhopper.com/) **VE3EMI** mobile/portable/fixed multiband antenna, specs, etc

<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/reference/radio/index.html> **VE3UA** good beginner/intro info

[www.pinetreeline.org](http://www.pinetreeline.org) **VE3EMI** neat for old timers of the DEW line era, articles, pix

[www.eham.net/articles/2389](http://www.eham.net/articles/2389) **VA3AMY/VA3JRS** articles ALINCO DX-77NT

[www.arrl.org/w1aw/2001-index.html](http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/2001-index.html) **VE3UA** ARRL general bulletins back to 1996

[http://hfradio.org/redir?redir=tycho.usno.navy.mil/time\\_ann.ram](http://hfradio.org/redir?redir=tycho.usno.navy.mil/time_ann.ram) **VE3UA** voice i/d time every 10 secs; cute

<http://home.flash.net/~av8tor/radios/> **VE3FAL** awesome site for general listening info military/civil/etc

[www.hamantenna.ca.tc](http://www.hamantenna.ca.tc) Maybe **VA3JRS**? Got bumped to web site registration data

[www.webaugur.com/bibliotheca/hamradio/dea.html](http://www.webaugur.com/bibliotheca/hamradio/dea.html) **VE3FAL** commercial listening freqs of interest

[www.hexbeam.com/hexbeam.html](http://www.hexbeam.com/hexbeam.html) **VE3FAL** another HF multiband beam “new” design, specs etc

[www.hamfinder.com](http://www.hamfinder.com) **W8FWG** 3849 sites listed all related to ham radio – fantastic!

<http://wwasscoiates.com/> **VA3AY** source for replacement rechargeable batteries and chargers

<http://web.usna.navy.mil/~bruninga/aprs.html/> **VE3UA** APRS web site

[www.arcade-electronics.com](http://www.arcade-electronics.com) **VA3WRL** site for NTE electronics replacement components

[www.eham.net/speakout/opinions/181](http://www.eham.net/speakout/opinions/181) **VA3JRS** this opinion page all about ham clubs, etc.

[www.eqsl.cc/eqslcard/](http://www.eqsl.cc/eqslcard/) **VE3SJB** can’t afford postage? Try e-ql site.

<http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~postr/bapix/index.html> **VE3EMI** “boat anchor” pix (take note AJ!)

[www.miracleantenna.com/Index.htm](http://www.miracleantenna.com/Index.htm) **VE3FAL** features mutliband rig-mounted whip antenna

[www.members.aol.com/homingin/](http://www.members.aol.com/homingin/) **VE3FAL** interesting site about radio direction finding, etc.

<http://earthlink.net/~lenyr/> **VE3SJB** negative resistance oscillators and other stuff

[www.thebest.net/wuggy/](http://www.thebest.net/wuggy/) **VE3SJB** crystal radio page with links

[www.qrpworld.com/welcome.htm](http://www.qrpworld.com/welcome.htm) guess what? A site for QRP’ers with some good topics **VE3FAL**

## LED Flashlight (K7DS)

It's pretty safe to say that backpackers and hams are gear nuts. If it's smaller, lighter or more powerful, it has to be better than what you already have. That was the case with my backpacking flashlight. My faithful old Duracell 2-cell light worked just fine but it was a little on the heavy side and ate batteries like the Energizer Bunny was my brother-in-law. I wanted something smaller and more efficient. I spent quite a bit of time cruising around the LED flashlight web page. looking at all the commercial offerings. While I liked what I saw, I decided I'd rather build my own. That way I could include features that I wanted instead of what some manufacturer thought I wanted.

The schematic of my light shows how simple it really is. It features a high brightness, orange LED from Radio Shack. In fact, at 12,000 mcd it is the brightest LED I've ever seen. You won't want to look directly into this LED at full power. As a bonus, the orange color (ledlight2.jpg) preserves your night vision.

The LED is powered by a single CR2450 lithium battery, also available from Radio Shack. The battery is rated at 650 mah. The LED can draw 50 ma. or more with a fresh battery. That was a little higher than I was comfortable with so I included a HIGH/LOW switch. In the LOW position the current drain is more like 20 ma. with a fresh battery. Even on LOW, the LED is very bright. As the battery ages the voltage droops a little and the current consumption becomes downright miserly. I have yet to wear out my first battery and I play with the flashlight constantly.

Because I am comfortable working with tiny bits and pieces of ABS plastic I built my own enclosure. Others may prefer something ready made. Look in your medicine cabinet. A dental floss box should work quite well, and the price is right. The ON/OFF switch is on the right hand side and the HI/LO switch is on the left.

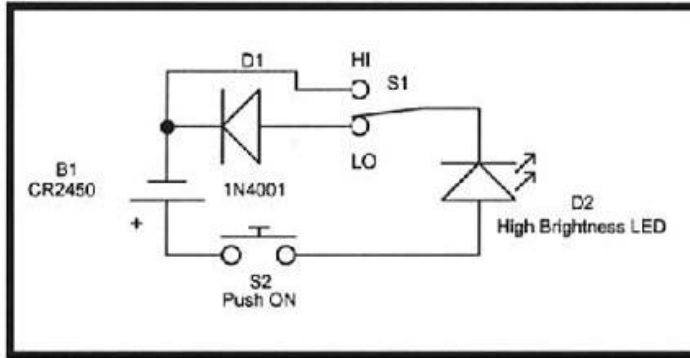
The battery contacts were made from strips of metal robbed from an old telephone type lever switch. If I build another light I would probably use a momentary contact ON/OFF switch instead of the slide switch shown. The beam from the light is quite narrow and, as I mentioned earlier, very bright. It is perfect for walking around camp in the middle of the night looking for a big tree. It will easily light the trail 20-30 feet ahead. A diffused lens might be a little better for close up work like logging and knob twisting in the tent, but it still works well just as it is. The finished light weighs one ounce.

This is my first attempt at building a LED flashlight but I doubt it will be my last. I've been playing with different LEDs and battery combinations. The possibilities are endless. So if you're looking for a fun, weekend project, try this one. You'll like it.

Parts List (numbers in parentheses are Radio Shack part numbers)

- B1 CR2450 lithium battery (23-189)
- D1 1N4001 diode (276-1101A)
- D2 Orange, high brightness LED (276-206)
- S1, S2 SPDT submini slide switch (275-409A)

( Tks Wayne **VA3WRL** for forwarding article)



(This looks like an excellent beginners' project for some of our newly licensed hams. If anyone does build this up, please email me and let me know how it worked out. Maybe we can run a few pix of your results in a future HI-Q. ....Ed.)

**J.O.T.A 2001****SOUTH GILLIES TOWER SITE**

October the 20<sup>th</sup> was again the day for me to take part in Jamboree On The Air. The place, the Bell Telephone tower site in South Gillies. And what a site to operate from, nice view of the countryside, and nothing in the way to obstruct those rf patterns. Carl, VA3PEP and myself headed up to the tower site to set up the radio gear, when we got to the site the tailgate on the truck was lowered and used as the main operating position. A 40-meter dipole was set up, and we were ready to go on 40 and 15 meters, and a station was also setup for 2 meter simplex operation as well as to try and make contact with the International Space Station should we be so lucky.

The rest of the group included 9 scouts and 5 leaders. Many of the scouts took turns working various other stations around parts of the United States and Canada. Some of the stations were: K7UGA (Senator Barry Goldwater's Station), (I have K7UGA QSL...Ed.) W7K, DL0AR (Germany), K1OV (CT), VE7GFC (Vancouver), VE2QQ, KB3BOY (Penn. Boy Scout Station). The scouts talked about weather, hobbies, family, pets, and of course things that they like and enjoy about scouting.

Some of the other events that the scouts did with the leaders during their overnight stay included: cooking, axe handling and safety, knife handling and safety, fire safety and how to start a fire, and of course the setting up of a camp.

Myself and the scouts and their leaders again had a great time putting JOTA 2001 on the air from Thunder Bay Ontario. We look forward to next year when we can do it all over again.

**LITTLE THUNDER QRP CLUB MEETING OCTOBER 9/01**

The Little Thunder QRP Club had an open for all meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup> 2001 at the College. The meeting was open to all amateur radio operators in Thunder Bay. To discuss the fascinating hobby of amateur radio at QRP (low power) levels, and the fact that much of this equipment is homebrew, a part of the hobby that brings us back to the grass roots of amateur radio.

Those in attendance were **VE3AXL** (Phil), **VE3XT** (Bill), **VA3WRL** (Wayne), **VA3BEL** (Vic), **VE3BHN** (Bob), Logan-Phil's nephew, and **VE3FAL** (Fred).

Bill brought with him his Palm Pilot logger, in which the interface he made uses a PIC, and can send morse code and log all contacts in one little hand held unit. Phil brought a homebrew battery pack that he designed for multi purposes. The battery pack can be tapped at various points and will give voltages from 1.5 - 12 volts.

An SGC 2020 was the pride show and tell toy for Wayne to show off. The eyes all glittered when he pulled this portable HF rig out of the box. The SGC 2020 is lightweight, tough, and portable. (<http://www.sgcworld.com>) Wayne also brought along some reading material and catalogues for the crew to read.

Fred pulled his Yaesu FT-817 (<http://www.yaesu.com>) out of his QRP bag to show the gang, along with a few of his other QRP rigs that he put together over the years. Fred also gave a brief talk on the QRP Foxhunts that take place on 40 meters, and talked about the rules and guidelines of the hunts, as well as the purpose of them. The meeting was then wrapped up at about 8:45 P.M. when Bill VE3XT took Logan for a tour of the workplace that he calls home. (Tks Fred **VE3FAL** for these two articles)

## ARES EMERGENCY TEST

On Oct 25, 01, the Lakehead Amateur Radio ARES group was involved in an emergency exercise with Thunder Bay Regional Hospital and EMO. Three stations were set up and manned by Ares members. We provided communications between McKellar site, P.A. General site, and command center set up at Vickers St. Fire station. An explosion at the P.A. General site lead to an evacuation of casualties to the McKellar site by bus. Messages were passed between sites in order to keep all parties aware of what was happening. The overall exercise was a good learning experience for the amateurs that got a chance for the first time to operate under adverse conditions. To a few, it was "a real eye-opener". We did find a few bugs that need to be cleared up, but that's what these tests are for. A comment to those Ares members that may have heard what was going on, please check in and let net control if you are available at that time or maybe later. This is important because if this had been a real emergency, we would need relief operators ready to take over and do a shift.

Thanks go out to **VE3, XRC, RVA, ICY, ZG, MXJ, CLV, VA3, NTS, EAP, MVR, LU**, for helping at the comm. sites and to **VE3AXL** for offering his help if we needed HF assistance.

Randy Gottfred  
Emergency Coordinator  
Thunder Bay  
**VA3GOT** (Tks Randy for the news...Ed.)

## IRLP NEWS

Our IRLP Regional Net Controller (RNC) writes, "As of this date (Dec.20<sup>th</sup>) there are 270 nodes. We are now on 147.39 MHz. This repeater is at the home of **Terry VA3LU** but should soon be back at its permanent home at Hillcrest High School.

Just a reminder that on this repeater you can access the IRLP on 2m or 440MHz. When putting in the node numbers, you must first press the letter **D** for 2m, and **I** for 440MHz, i.e. **D9200** on **D9201** off."

On Sunday December 16, the International Net was held with a total of approximate 60 check in's from mostly all over North America, plus Australia. Local check in's were from **VE3MXJ, VE3GTX, VE3AVS, VA3WRL**, and **VE3DWP**. The next International Net is on Sunday December 30, @ 1600Z (11:00AM local) Check in on 147.39 with **VE3MXJ** at H minus 30 minutes. I then check in with the Central Net Control at **H-** Minus 15 minutes. A reminder that the Great Lakes Net is held every Wednesday evening at 0100Z (2000 local) on Reflector 1.

Thanks and 73 de Brad **VE3MXJ** RNC (Tks Brad for the news)



## Editor's Ink.....

Perhaps it is very fitting as we begin a new year that we reflect a few moments on our hobby's roots, particularly here in Thunder Bay. Take a few minutes to ponder the photograph below, the only known photograph of the **"1934 Amateur Radio Club"**, and the work of our Club's founders. There was very little available at that time in the way of commercial amateur equipment, so these experimenters largely relied on their collective talents to build up their equipment and stations. They worked together to solve technical and operational problems and to broaden the understanding of their hobby. Our founders also took time to encourage others who had an interest in amateur radio. These gentlemen did much to ensure the development of a strong and cohesive amateur organization here at the "Lakehead", and we should all be proud to be members of one of the longest-running amateur radio clubs in Canada.



### The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

#### 1934 Charter Members

Clockwise from left: — Joe Sky VE3HA, John Fieldhouse VE3FQ, Ray Godsalve VE3RA, Borge Rudman VE3VE, Stan Clark VE3OZ, E. Moore VE3KN, unknown, Bruce Grant VE3JJ, P.J. (Pat) O'Shea VE3FW, Charlie MacDonald VE3GS, Harry Raynor VE3CX, Art Chadwell, Cecil Partington VE3WH, Arnold Duncan VE3LY, Les Harris VE3GB (now VE3AYZ), Mike Caveney VE3GG and Brien O'Brien VE3UA.

Thanks to Pat Doherty **VE3PD** for scanning this old photo, and Jim O'Brien **VE3UA** for forwarding it.

**MEEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2002, ROOM 191 MCINTYRE BUILDING, CON COLLEGE**  
**Minutes of Meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club**  
**held at Boston Pizza, West Arthur Street, Thunder Bay, Ontario**  
**Thursday, December 13, 2001**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by the President, VE3RVA, Bob Hansen with 16 members and guests in attendance.

**Minutes of the meeting held November 8, 2001:** The minutes of the meeting held on November 8, 2001 were published in detail in the November issue of AHi-Q@ and distributed to all members.

**Motion:** moved by VE3XRC, Norm Bell and seconded by VE3ICY, Glen Wallace that the minutes be accepted as distributed. **Carried.**

**Correspondence:** None

**Treasurer's Report:** VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski

|  |                 |               |               |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Balance as of October 31, 2001                           |                 |               | \$ 3,235.16   |
| Income:  | 50/50           | 13.00         |               |
|  | Memberships     | <u>185.00</u> | <u>198.00</u> |
| Expenses:  | Hi-Q            | 20.45         |               |
|  | Telephone       | 40.37         |               |
|  | Bank S/C        | .50           |               |
|  | Repeater Main.  | 60.00         |               |
|  | Administration- | <u>146.14</u> | <u>267.46</u> |
| (Con. College Meeting Room -<br>envelopes and stamp pad) |                 |               |               |
| Balance as of November 30, 2001                          |                 |               | \$ 3,165.70   |

**Motion:** Moved by VA3EAP, Judy Artist and seconded by VA3PP, Pat Pugh that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. **Carried.**

**Committee Reports:** None

**Auditors:** VE3SNW, Ed Baumann and VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki have volunteered to audit the Treasurer's books at the next executive meeting..

**Old Business:** VE3RVA, Bob Hansen will hand out the tickets for the Annual Dinner Meeting to the executives at the next executive meeting. Anyone wanting tickets may obtain them from these members. The price for the dinner will be \$24.00 per person, dinner to be held at the Slovak Legion, Sun Room, Atlantic Avenue, February 16, 2002. (Donations needed for prizes)

**50/50 Draw:** The winner of the 50/50 draw was VE3MJN, Marion Nawrocki.

**Entertainment:** VE3XRC, Norm Bell read a story from the book Die Laughing by Don S. Cochrane.

**Adjournment:** Moved by VE3XRC, Norm Bell that the meeting be adjourned.



LARC